

7-5-1954

## 54/07/05 (3rd) Bay Doctor's Wife Murdered

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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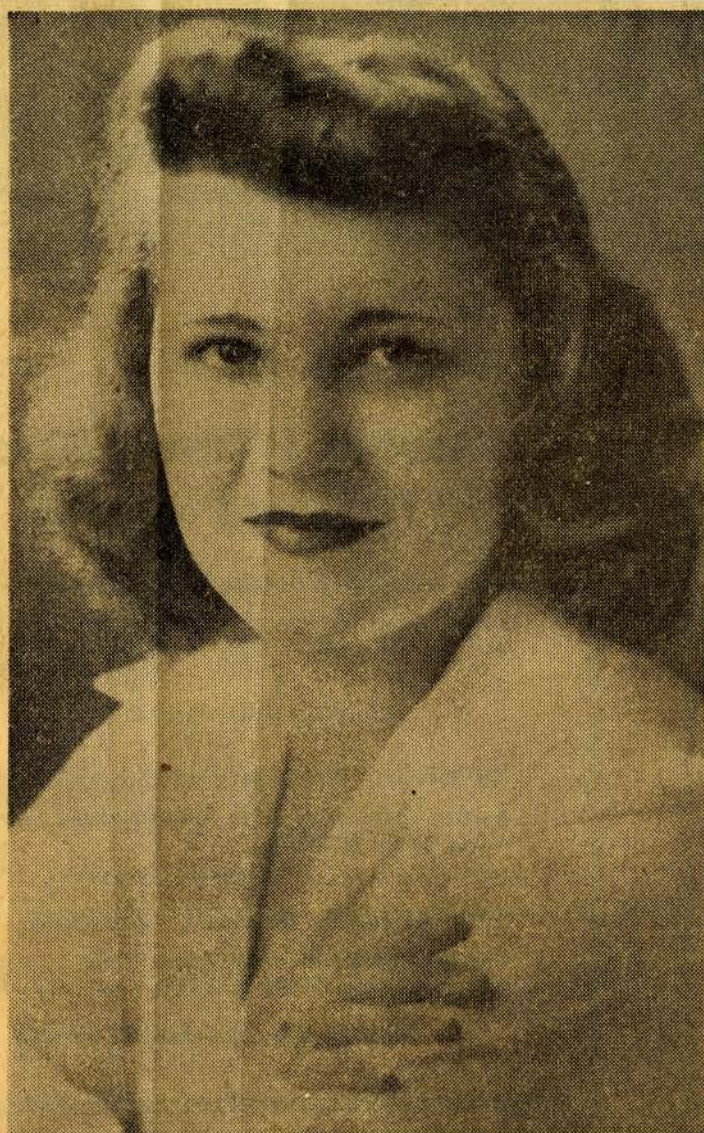
Cleveland Plain Dealer, "54/07/05 (3rd) Bay Doctor's Wife Murdered" (1954). *All Articles*. 243.  
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# BAY DOCTOR'S WIFE MURDERED

*Beaten, He Tells of Fight With Intruder*





**BAY VILLAGE MURDER.** Mrs. Marilyn R. Sheppard, 31, (left) was found slain early yesterday in her home, 28924 West Lake Road, Bay Village (below). Dr. Samuel R. Sheppard (far left), her husband, was found beaten in the home and told police he struggled with an unknown intruder. The couple's son, Samuel, jr., 6½, (above) was asleep in a bedroom next to the one in which Mrs. Sheppard's body was found.

(More Photos on Picture Page)

# WOMAN FOUND HACKED BY 25 BLOWS IN BED; TOOTH CHIPS ARE CLEW

Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, Dazed, Calls Mayor and Mrs. Houk; Desk Ransacked; Bag of Jewelry Found Near House; Weapon Missing; Boys Join in Hunt

Chopped in the head and face by 25 savage blows, Mrs. Marilyn R. Sheppard, 31, was found murdered in bed yesterday in her home, 28924 West Lake Road, Bay Village.

Her husband, Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, 30, prominent osteopathic neuro-surgeon, was discovered beaten and dazed in the living room of the rambling suburban home.

Best clew police had to the sadistic killer were two tooth chips discovered on the bed beneath Mrs. Sheppard's body when it was turned over for examination.

No teeth were missing from Mrs. Sheppard's mouth, Dr. Samuel R. Gerber, Cuyahoga County coroner, reported.

## Motive Probed

Motive for the killing was not determined, although police recovered a bag of personal jewelry belonging to Dr. Sheppard from weeds behind the house.

Ransacking of Dr. Sheppard's medical bag and his desk in a study led detectives to theorize that someone might have been after narcotics.

Mrs. Sheppard's face had been hacked, apparently by some sharp instrument. She was virtually unrecognizable, police said.

Mayor J. Spencer Houk of Bay Village and his wife, Esther, made the gruesome discovery at 5:40 a. m. after being telephoned by the distraught husband.

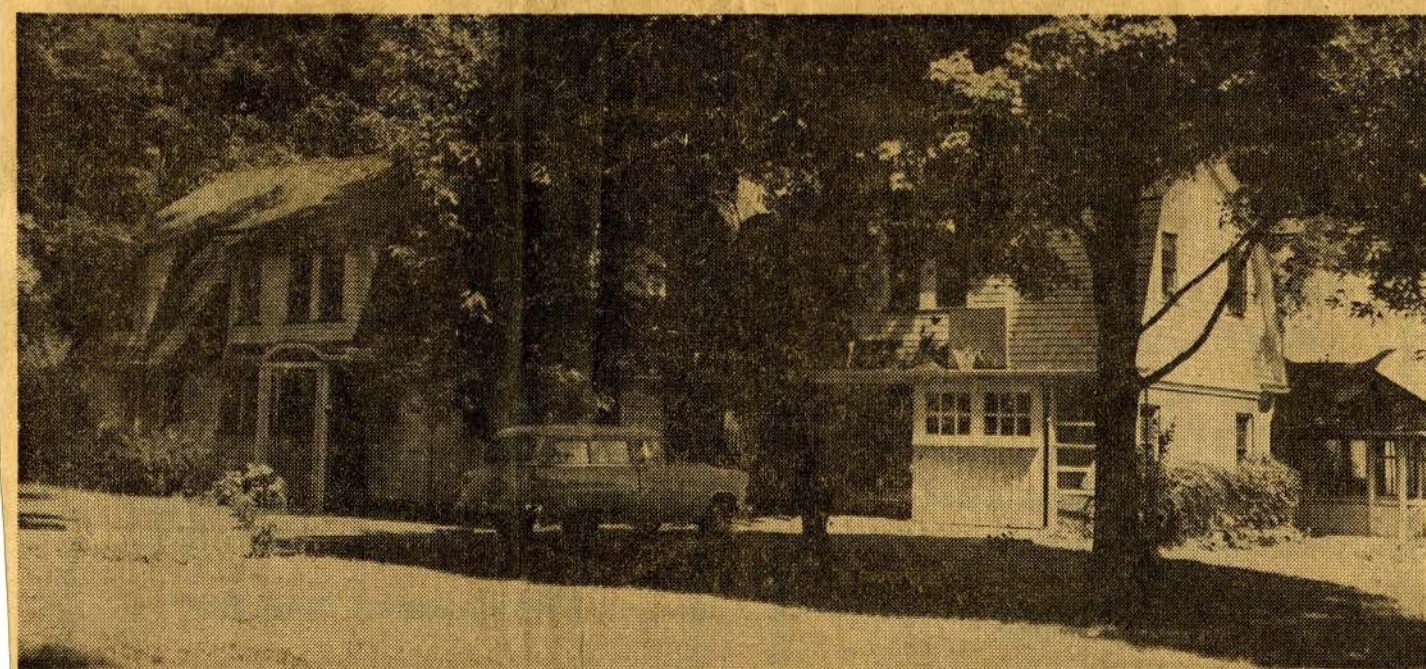
Mrs. Houk ran to an upstairs bedroom of the house, where she found Mrs. Sheppard lying face up on a blood-soaked twin bed.

## Walls Splattered

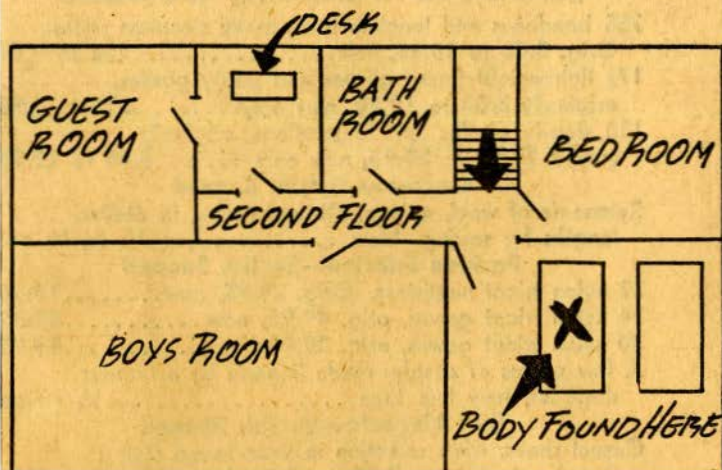
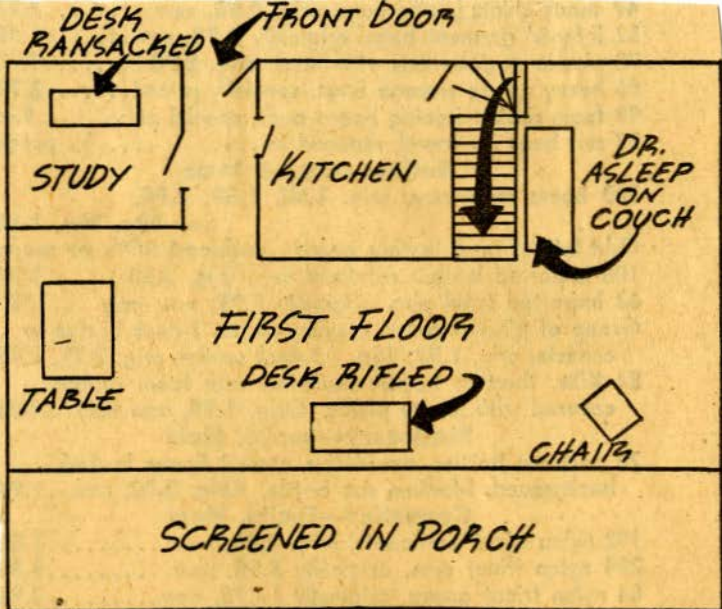
The walls and door of the room were splattered with blood. Pajama pants worn by Mrs. Sheppard had been pulled down on her legs, which hung over the bottom of the bed. The top was pulled up above her waist.

Mrs. Houk felt the pulse of

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**MURDER HOUSE.** Diagram shows the first and second floors of the home of Dr. and Mrs. Samuel H. Sheppard. Couch on the first floor was where the doctor slept until aroused by screams.

Mrs. Sheppard's body was found in the bedroom at the top of the stairs.

# Bay Physician's Wife Is Murdered

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the woman, four months pregnant and the mother of a son, Samuel, jr., 6½, who was asleep in a bedroom next to the one in which Mrs. Sheppard was found slain. Later she said there was none.

The Sheppards' Irish setter was running around the living room when Mayor and Mrs. Houk entered the front door, which was open when they arrived.

## Sleeping on Couch

Dr. Sheppard told Dr. Gerber that he was asleep on a couch at the bottom of the stairs when he suddenly awoke.

He said he had a vague feeling that he had heard Mrs. Sheppard screaming.

From his bed at Bay View Hospital, where a 24-hour police guard was posted for Dr. Sheppard's protection, the physician told Dr. Gerber that he ran upstairs and was met by someone at the top of stairs.

Dr. Sheppard said he was hit on the back of his neck and stunned.

He said his next recollection was running in the back yard of the home, overlooking Lake Erie.

Dr. Sheppard said he remembered running after someone down the stairs to a beach house on stilts above their private beach. The beach is about 50 feet below the back yard.

The doctor said he remembered wrestling with a man. Dr. Gerber said the physician thought there might have been two men, but was uncertain.

The husband said he "blacked out" and when he awoke was lying on the beach in the water.

Dr. Sheppard said he climbed back up the stairs to the house and went to the bedroom. At the sight of his wife, the doctor said, he "blacked out" again.

## Makes Phone Call

He next remembered telephoning Houk, a close friend, who lives at 29014 West Lake, a few doors away.

"For God's sake, Spence, get over here quick; I think they've killed Marilyn," Houk quoted Dr. Sheppard screaming over the telephone.

When Houk asked what was the trouble Dr. Sheppard shouted again: "For God's sake, get over here."

Houk awoke his wife and hurried to the Sheppards' home.

Dr. Gerber said Mrs. Sheppard had not been sexually assaulted.

He performed an autopsy soon after visiting the scene and interviewing Dr. Sheppard at the hospital.

## Suffers Face Bruises

Dr. Sheppard suffered facial and mouth injuries. X rays were taken to determine if he had received a skull fracture. He was in good condition.

Houk said he found Dr. Sheppard flopped on the living room floor leaning against an armchair.

Police summoned by Houk called Dr. Richard N. Sheppard, 23346 West Lake, a brother of Dr. Sheppard. The brother pronounced Mrs. Sheppard dead at the scene.

Dr. Gerber said Mrs. Sheppard suffered 25 wounds on both sides of the head and face. Her death resulted from multiple fractures of the skull and laceration and hemorrhages of the brain. The cuts were bone deep, police said.

## Dog's Silence Mystery

Neighbors reported they had not heard any disturbance in the night.

Failure of the couple's dog, KoKo, to bark was one of the unanswered mysteries of the bizarre slaying.

Alex Brusino, 28950 West Lake, said that usually the dog's barking awakens him in the morning. The dog was taken by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur G. Paine, 28913 West Lake, when found running outside the house after police arrived.

Dr. Gerber and Police Chief John Eaton of Bay Village put neighborhood boys to work dragging the lake off the beach and searching the area looking for the murder weapon and other clues.

## Houk's Son Finds Bag

Houk's son, Lawrence, 16, found a green cloth jeweler's bag containing the wrist watch of Dr. Sheppard and other items. These included a signet ring, a chain with various fraternity keys and a key ring with several keys bearing the initials "S. S."

This was taken as an indication that the intruder had robbery as a motive and had slain Mrs. Sheppard when surprised upstairs. It was theorized that the fleeing assailant threw the bag in the weeds as Dr. Sheppard chased him.

Dr. Gerber pointed out that the wrist watch crystal bore blood smears.



### **Print Found on Desk**

When found the watch had stopped at 4:15, detectives said. Later it resumed running.

Dusting for fingerprints on furniture, window sills and elsewhere in the house paid off in the discovery of a palm print on the desk in the study, Dr. Gerber said.

Bay Village police were aided by Detectives Robert F. Schottke and Patrick A. Gareau of the Cleveland homicide squad.

Boys searching the beach brought in a pair of cheap sunglasses and a white handkerchief found lying on the sand.

An electro-magnet will be used today by police in an effort to find the murder weapon if it is under water off the private beach.

### **Kept Narcotics in Bag**

Whether any narcotics had been taken could not be determined immediately.

Dr. Sheppard kept narcotics in his medicine bag to answer emergency calls from his home, Chief Eaton said.

The brutal killing came after a quiet evening at home for the doctor and his pretty wife.

Donald and Nancy Ahern, neighbors living at 29146 West Lake, had been guests at supper with their children, Michael, 9, and Leslie, 7.

The supper party had been held on the large screened-in porch at the rear of the house, overlooking Lake Erie.

### **Listen to Ball Game**

About 10:30 p. m. Saturday Ahern had taken his children home and put them to bed. Mrs. Ahern remained at the Sheppards'. Ahern rejoined the group, and they listened to the ball game.

Ahern said Dr. Sheppard fell asleep on the couch listening to the game.

When Houk found Dr. Sheppard the physician had on a pair of light cord pants, loafers and stockings. His clothing was wet.

Ahern said Dr. Sheppard was wearing a T-shirt when they left the home around midnight. The T-shirt was not found.

### **Bed Not Slept In**

The neighbor said that after the ball game ended Mrs. Sheppard and the Aherns watched a midnight movie on television.

Noting that Mrs. Sheppard was drowsy, the Aherns excused themselves, Ahern related. He said his wife bolted the screen door to the porch and locked the back door. Mrs. Sheppard saw them out the front door, Ahern said.

The twin bed next to the one on which Mrs. Sheppard was found had not been slept in, detectives said.

Whether Mrs. Sheppard had retired before being beaten was not determined.

### **House Guest Quizzed**

Dr. Lester T. Hoversten, who had been a house guest at the Sheppard home, was reached at Kent, where he was visiting Dr. Gerald Stevenson. He returned here late yesterday and was interviewed by Dr. Gerber.

Dr. Hoversten, who has been associated with Bay View Hospital said he left for Kent Sat-

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# BAY PHYSICIAN'S WIFE MURDERED

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urday afternoon. He could shed no light on a motive for the killing.

The Sheppards' son was taken to the home of Dr. Richard N. Sheppard. He was not told of the tragedy.

A rag smeared with paint or blood was found in a Jaguar sports car parked in the garage of the home. Young Houk and James Redinger, 16, of 29503 West Lake, found the cloth.

Mr. and Mrs. Karl R. Schuele, 28944 West Lake Road, immediately to the west of the Sheppard home, said they went out Saturday night about 11 and returned home about 2:30 a. m. Sunday. They said they neither heard nor saw anything unusual.

C. W. Bryson, 28838 West Lake, the house to the west of Sheppards,' said he was asleep and was undisturbed.

He observed that the Sheppards' home had been hit by fire last summer and severely damaged. The family could not live

in it for three months, he added, while repairs were being made.

Friends of the couple said they were popular among the younger set in Bay Village. Dr. Sheppard is a water skiing enthusiast, and a party for hospital interns and friends had been planned for yesterday morning.

Among those who came to the scene was Otto Graham, 30623 Winston Drive, Bay Village, Cleveland Browns' star quarterback, a friend of the couple.

Police investigating the crime were disconcerted by one group that stopped. A car bearing Michigan license plates pulled in, and three men jumped out carrying

large Thermos jugs. Seeing the numerous police cars and others around, they said they thought it was a picnic ground and had stopped for water.

Saturday morning Dr. Sheppard vainly tried to save the life of Bobby Reese, 17-month-old boy, by massaging the child's heart at Bay View Hospital after the boy had been run over by a truck. The child lived at 3694 Walter Road, North Olmsted.

The last murder in Bay Village was the double slaying of the 12-year-old Collins twins, James and Charles. The boys were shot to death in a grove at the dead end of Saddler Road,

Aug. 12, 1943, by Henry William Hagert. Hagert was electrocuted Oct. 3, 1945.

In nearby Westlake on April 11, Victor L. Coreno, 34, was shot and killed in an attempted holdup of Schneider's Tavern, 26695 Center Ridge Road, not far from the Sheppard residence. The killing is still unsolved.